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Atty. Dkt. DEET/0014

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

12. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the fetcher is programmed to apply policies to determine whether the mail document is retractable, and the fetcher is further programmed to retract the mail document only if retractable according to the policies.

13. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the policies include policies as to read/unread status of the mail document.

14. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the policies include policies as to age of the mail document.

15. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the policies include policies as to who may initiate a request to retract the mail document.

16. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the fetcher is programmed to allow the policies to be amended by an operator or administrator of the first server.

17. (New) A method for retracting an electronic mail document stored in a mail database of a first server sent from a sender to a recipient comprising the steps of:

issuing a request to retract the mail document to a fetch queue at the first server;

retrieving the request from the fetch queue by a fetcher at the first server;

applying policies to determine whether the mail document is retractable according to the policies; and

if the mail document is retractable:

retracting the mail document; and

reporting the retraction.

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. DEET/0014

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the policies include policies as to read/unread status of the mail document.
19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the policies include policies as to the age of the mail document.
20. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the policies include policies as to who may issue the request to retract the mail document.
21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the policies may be amended by an operator or administrator of the first server.
22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of retracting the mail document comprises deleting the mail document from the mail database.
23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of retracting the message comprises substituting the mail document in the mail database with a replacement mail document or with updated content.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein the replacement mail document is a substantially blank document.